

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/692,159

Examiner

Christopher Boswell

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON, VICTOR R.

Art Unit

3676

*Mk*

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed October 23, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*John B. Wahl*

**DETAILED ACTION*****Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-17 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that of a self-adjusting lock assembly with a latching stud, and a latching assembly comprised of a first jaw plate and a second jaw plate, each with movement control arms for enabling longitudinal movement of the jaw plates, for operative locking engagement with the latching stud, and a control member in co-operatively engaged with the control arms of the first and second jaw plates, and constructed for causing simultaneous, longitudinal movement of the jaw plates (claim 1, lines 29-33; claim 15, lines 49-64; claim 16, lines 22-25, and claim 17, lines 36-41, and 75-80).

U.S. Patent Number 4,796,930 to Baynes discloses a self-adjusting lock assembly (figure 1) comprising a latching stud (34), and a latching assembly (figures 3 and 5) having a first and a second jaw plate (76), each with movement control arms (column 2, line 65-column 3, line 4) for enabling longitudinal movement of the jaw plates. However, Baynes does not disclose the use of a control member to cause simultaneous longitudinal movement of the jaw plates.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to self-adjusting lock assembly:

U.S. Patent Number 6,149,213 to Sokurenko et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,092,846 to Fuss et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,829,280 to Chen, U.S. Patent Number 5,467,619 to Stillwagon et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,216,906 to Kurrasch, U.S. Patent Number 4,616,863 to Bryant, U.S. Patent Number 4,597,599 to Bisbing, U.S. Patent Number 3,918,752 to Leone et al., U.S. Patent Number 3,701,617 to Crawford et al., U.S. Patent Number 3,002,365 to Liljequist, U.S. Patent Number 2,284,180 to Thomas, U.S. Patent Number 1,967,627 to Riley et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Boswell whose telephone number is (703) 305-4067.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CJB

June 24, 2004

*John D. Wahl*  
Primary Ex.  
AU 3676